

# FACT SHEET



## Syntex Facility Superfund Site

### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called 5-year reviews, on Superfund sites where cleanups have been completed. EPA Region 7 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) have started a second five-year review of the Syntex Facility site located west of the City of Verona, Missouri.

EPA and the MDNR are doing the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

### Background

In the 1960s, the facility was operated by Hoffman-Taff, Inc., and used to produce 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) for the U.S. Army as an ingredient in the defoliant commonly known as Agent Orange. In 1968, a portion of the facility was also leased to another company, the Northeastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Company, for the production of hexachlorophene. In 1969, the facility was purchased by Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. (Syntex).

Dioxin (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) was created as an unwanted byproduct in the production of 2,4,5-T and hexachlorophene. The dioxin-contaminated waste was managed in tanks and lagoons located at the site. Dioxin is considered by EPA to be an extremely toxic contaminant.

Under EPA oversight, Syntex performed cleanup activities beginning in 1983 and continuing until 1998. During the cleanup, processing equipment at the facility was decontaminated and transported offsite for disposal. Dioxin-contaminated soils were excavated and transported offsite for treatment and disposal. A disposal trench located on the bluffs west of the Spring River was covered with clay and topsoil and revegetated. A gravel channel was also installed to intercept ground water before it could contact the disposal trench.

A component of the cleanup involved the installation of a series of monitoring wells to evaluate any possible impact of the site on local ground water quality. A two-year ground water monitoring program was implemented by Syntex in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, a risk assessment report was prepared that considered the results of the ground water monitoring. This risk assessment report is currently under review by EPA and MDNR.

Although the Syntex facility has been cleaned up to an extent that allows for safe industrial use, some restrictions remain on the future use of the property. The Superfund Law requires that a review of site conditions be performed every five years at sites where residual contamination in some way restricts the use of the property. An initial five-year review of the Syntex Facility was completed in 1997. The current five-year review will consider the information developed since the last review.

## **For More Information**

During the review, EPA studies information on the site, and inspects the site to make sure it continues to be safe. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or concerns they may have.

At the end of the review, a final report will be prepared and will be available in the site information repositories.

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Verona City Hall  
101 N. Third Street  
Verona, Missouri 65969

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

EPA Record Center  
901 N.5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

If you have questions or need more information on the Syntex Facility site or the five-year review process, please contact:

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